

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of

WT Docket 04-140

Amendment of Part 97 of the  
Commission's Amateur  
Service Rules

To: The Federal Communications Commission:

**COMMENTS OF: Donald E. Dallmann, K9VIC**

**I. THIS COMMENTER**

1. These are the comments of Donald E. Dallmann regarding the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 04-140. This commenter currently holds an amateur extra class license (call sign K9VIC), and has been licensed for approximately 5 years. This commenter is currently active on the 10, 15, 17, 20 and 40 meter bands using primarily digital communication modes.

**II. INTRODUCTION**

2. The subject *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice)* proposes to revise operating privileges for amateur service users as well as to eliminate obsolete rules. To this end the Commission has done an excellent job in addressing a wide range of shortcomings. The sole item addressed in this comment is the section of the Notice deemed the "Mark Miller" Petition.

**III. THE MARK MILLER PETITION**

3. One of the items addressed in the Notice is the Mark Miller petition. Current amateur rules prohibit image transmission in the CW/data portions of the band because historically, image transmission required bandwidth similar to that of voice transmission. Current advances in software have allowed for extremely narrow bandwidth image transmission, although the methods of image transmission are analog, not digital. Thus, these transmissions are prohibited in the portions of the bands used for narrow-bandwidth modes. Particularly problematic is that the software used for transmitting these images uses a digital text mode to establish communications between two stations, then switches to analog (same band-width) while transmitting the image, and then back to digital for text communications. Under current Commission rules, the two types of

transmission are not permitted in the same portion of the bands. Logistically, switching up and down a band to alternately send images and text would be impossible. Digital (and narrow band analog) communications require that the stations be tuned within a few Hertz of each other. Jumping back and forth would be not be hit-and-miss – it would be miss-and-miss. The Mark Miller petition seeks to “tidy up” the rules by allowing narrow-band image transmission in the CW/data portions of the bands. This would bring U.S. amateur rules in line with those of other countries.

4. I am in support of the Mark Miller petition.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL SUGGESTION**

5. Just as technology caught up with and then overtook previous rule makings that limited emission types to various portions of the band based on the bandwidth at the time of the rule making, so shall future advances in technology overtake the Notice as written. To preclude future non-digital narrow image transmissions from being banned from the CW/data portions of the band, it is suggested that the data definition be expanded to include all image emissions less than 500Hz. The following definition is suggested for inclusion in part 97.3(c)(2):

**Data. Telemetry, telecommand and computer communications emissions having designators with A, C, D, F, G, H, J or R as the first symbol; 1 as the second symbol; D as the third symbol; emissions A1C, F2C, J2C, and J3C having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less, and J2D. Only a digital code of a type specifically authorized in this part may be transmitted.**

Respectfully submitted,

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